U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Oct. 5, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 1 -- In this week's parade of best fruit buys we find apples out in front. A colorful appearance they make, too, with such fall varieties as Jonathans, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Bellflower, Winter Banana, the King David, and a number of others.

Taking second place are low priced watermelons -- the lowest priced in several years.

Grapes are next in line with a plentiful supply of Muscats and Tokays. Prices are up on Thompson Seedless grapes as they now near the end of their season.

Pears are still a fairly good buy, while in the end-of-the-season line-up we find cantaloups, peaches, plums, and prunes.

Oranges, with the ceiling price upped this morning, lemons (higher, and scarce and high avocados, plus a few persimmons end up the display of fruits.

The vegetable exhibit is about the same as for last week with cauliflower lower priced and a good buy, eggplant at slightly higher prices, Bell peppers, onions and lots of good quality potatoes.

Appearing in the fair buy class are cabbage heads at a fairly low price, a plentiful supply of celery, lettuce, sweet potatoes, and lots of slightly lower priced tomatoes from the Santa Clara and Watsonville areas.

(MORE)

The meat supply just won't meet! Last week's total salable livestock receipts on the South San Francisco wholesale market were slightly heavier than for the previous week. Considerably more cattle and calves were received and about an equal number of hogs, but roughly 41 percent fewer sheep.

From the above picture of the livestock market, we find that beef continued in very light supply last week, with a large percentage of cow and heifer beef. The supplies of veal were the lowest to date. What veal did come from country slaughterers had a wide quality range. A fairly normal lamb slaughter, in a narrow range of Good and Choice quality, could not compete with the broad demand. Offerings of fresh pork were very scant, while there was practically no smoked meat, ham, bacon, or pork sausage.

Wholesale butter prices are up 4 cents per pound from Tuesday of last week on Grade "A" (92-score) and 5½ cents on Grade "B" (90-score). At these prices, supplies are equal to the demand.

As egg production continues to taper off and top quality eggs become more scarce, storage eggs are put to greater use. Wholesale prices are the same as for last week.

The scarcity of red meats has stimulated the demand for poultry. Wholesale paying prices on live poultry hit a new high last week with young hen turkeys making the greatest gain of 8 to 8½ cents per pound on live weight and 5 to 6 cents per pound on dressed weight. Young live tom turkeys fell into line, too, and went up 2½ to 3 cents per pound on live weight and 1 to 2 cents on dressed weight. Turkey supplies continue to become heavier as growers take advantage of the higher paying prices. All other classes of poultry remained unchanged in price on live weight, but dressed broilers and fryers are up 2 to 3 cents per pound from a week ago, roasters 1 to 2 cents, small leghorn fowl 1 cent, and all weights of colored fowl are up 2 cents per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Oct. 11, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 8--A look at this week's fruit supply tells us that apples are tops. With a plentiful supply of Northwestern Red Delicious apples on hand, they make a colorful appearance in the fruit bowl, along with Thompson Seedless, Muscat, Ribier, and Tokay grapes. More and more apples are coming in from Watsonville, as well as from the mountainous and foothill areas of Eldorado, Mendocino, Butte, Tuolumne, and Tulare counties.

Watermelons at a low price make a good buy, but housewives should pay particular attention to quality. At this time in the season, there are some good melons and some not so good. Choose a bright colored, well-shaped melon.

Persian melons are fairly plentiful, of good quality, and slightly higher.

Practically all the Bartlett pears now on the market are from storage.

A few cranberries, persimmons and pomegranates are arriving, but the supply of citrus fruits is still scant. There won't be much change until Navel oranges begin to arrive in about six weeks.

Celery, low priced, onions, particularly the yellow onions, peppers and potatoes are the best vegetable buys. Sweet potatoes, with emphasis on the Puerto Rican type, are the next best buy, while snap beans of better quality, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, lettuce, and squash are all fair buys this week.

(MORE)

Salable livestock receipts on the South San Francisco wholesale market totaled approximately the same last week as for the previous week. While a few more hogs arrived at market, less cattle, calves, and sheep made their appearance

In terms of slaughter and meat available in trade channels, the balance was not so evenly hit. On one side was an above-average slaughter of lamb and mutton and on the other a very low hog slaughter. The liberal lamb slaughter was in broad demand and ranged in Good and Choice quality, while a little more of Commercial and Utility grade showed up in the mutton supply. The scant supplies of fresh pork -- less than ten percent of normal -- were readily taken, while practically no smoked meats were to be had. A slightly better beef slaughter moved quickly and ranged in quality from Commercial to Good, with very little Choice grade available. Very limited offerings of veal were of Commercial to Good quality and in big demand.

Butter prices are at a new all-time high, and are up $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound on Grade A (92 score) from a week ago. Demand for butter has been greater because of the shortage of margarine and cooking fats and oils. However, last week consumers showed some resistance to high prices.

While local egg production continued to taper off last week, there were more medium sized and lower quality eggs available as the result of shipments from other states. Wholesale prices on all grades are the same as a week ago.

Poultry is in less demand than a week ago, with wholesale prices down 2 to 3 cents per pound on both live and dressed broilers, fryers and roasters. Colored hens are up 1 cent per pound on live weight, while young dressed turkey hens are 2 cents per pound higher and young dressed tom turkeys are up 1 cent on the lower side of the price range. Leghorn hens are up 1 to 2 cents per pound, live weight.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Oct. 18, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 15--Apples are the center of attention in this week's fruit basket. Supplies are plentiful and quality good, especially those highly colored Red Delicious apples from the Pacific Northwest.

Grapes are second place in the scheme of things. However, some summer varieties such as Thompson Seedless and Tokays are rapidly ending up their season. A few Muscats are still on hand. Prices on all are higher. Soon we'll be able to expect some Emperors.

There are still some pretty good quality Persian melons and Honeydew melons available at slightly higher prices.

The season on peaches is practically at an end, but there are a few Krummels coming in from Oregon.

A moderate supply of lemons is selling at higher prices, while both grapefruit and oranges are scarce.

Winter pears -- Comice and D'Anjou -- are beginning to come to market. Along with persimmons and pomegranates, they end up the possible fruit basket choices.

Potatoes and onions head the list of best vegetable buys. Lucky we are that they do -- there are so many ways to prepare and use both of them. Supplies are plentiful and prices reasonable. Celery of good quality and the same price as last week is another excellent buy.

Next in order of quality and price and fair buys are cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, Bell peppers, sweet potatoes (Puerto Rican and Jersey types), and tomatoes.

(MORE)

Butter prices continue on an upward swing. San Francisco's wholesale market saw Grade A (92-score) go up another cent on Monday to make it 90 cents per pound. Despite the high prices and consumer resistance, demand is fairly good because with the dearth of margarine and cooking fats and oils, consumers are forced to use butter.

There were fewer eggs received on the wholesale market last week, but with export shipment practically at a standstill, supplies were heavier. Since a week ago, Grade "A" Small eggs have taken a 2-cent per dozen price drop, while Grade "B" Large eggs have experienced a 5-cent drop -- the biggest break in prices this season. Some consumer resistance to high prices is being shown.

Fairly light supplies of poultry are in less demand than a week ago. But even so, broilers are the only class which have dropped -- 1 cent per pound. Both live and dressed heavy Leghorn hens are up 1 cent per pound; all weights of colored hens are 4 cents per pound higher; ducks are 1 to 2 cents per pound higher; and domestic rabbits are selling 4 cents per pound higher alive and 3 to 5 cents higher dressed.

Only a small fraction more salable livestock was received on the South San Francisco wholesale market last week than for the previous week. Beef was reported to be in less supply than it has been and ranged in quality from Commercial to Good on steer beef and from Common to Canner on cow beef. In the very light supply of pork practically no major cuts were displayed. The general lamb kill ranged in Good and Choice grades, while the mutton supply seemed to embrace all grades.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Oct. 25, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 22—As the season on more and more fruits nears the end, there is no longer the plentiful supplies of the last few months from which to choose.

Apples, grapes, and limes head the list of best buys. Emperor grapes are just beginning to come in so that we can expect more of these. On the Thompson Seedless, Tokays and Ribiers available there is very little change in price. There are plenty of limes on the market now at reasonable prices. And generally they can be used in the same places as one would use lemons, which are higher priced than last week.

Persian melons remain a ~~fairly~~ fairly good buy and about the only melon buy.

This week persimmons are more plentiful and slightly lower priced, while a moderate supply of pomegranates are to be had at the same price.

A few winter pears continue to arrive on the market, but there is practically no grapefruit and all oranges, except the very small ones, are sellin, at ceiling and are higher than last week.

Celery, dry onions and potatoes are still the best vegetable buys. Supplies are abundant at unchanged prices. Bell peppers stand second in line. Cabbage and cauliflower, slightly lower priced, are fair buys, along with lower priced eggplant and sweet potatoes.

Anyone looking for a Hallowe'en pumpkin will be able to find one, and at a fairly reasonable price, too.

(MORE)

Since reporting to you on Tuesday of last week, considerable activity has been taking place on the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market. Last week's total salable livestock receipts were a good deal larger than those of the previous week. Hogs and sheep made the biggest gain in numbers. By the end of the week all shops had a more liberal beef supply ranging in grades of Utility to Good and Choice. Lightweight Utility and Commercial grades made up the bulk of a moderate veal supply, but demand was broad. Lamb was plentiful in grades of Utility to Good to Choice. While fresh pork supplies became heavier each day, prices pretty well kept pace and more than doubled on almost all items.

Lower butter prices in Eastern markets are being reflected in lower prices here. Yesterday Grade A (92 Score) dropped 3½ cents per pound on the wholesale market to a level of 86½ cents. But this morning (Tuesday) the price is up ½¢ to 87¢. Supplies are moderate and in fairly good demand.

Eggs are in moderate supply with no change in prices on the top grades. Ordinary quality eggs are in less demand. As a result, Large Grade "B" eggs are 3 cents per dozen lower.

When price controls on meat were removed, it was anticipated that there would be less demand for poultry. As a result, even though supplies of poultry are relatively light, wholesale prices are lower on young chickens and turkeys. Both live and dressed broilers are 4 cents per pound lower. Fryers and roasters are down 3 to 4 cents per pound on live weight and 1 to 2 cents on dressed weight. Young turkey hens and tons are both 5 cents less per pound on live weight, while dressed young hens are 2 to 3 cents lower and young tons are down 4 cents.

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